

VETERAN REINTEGRATION: USEFUL DATA (JAN 2014)

Many myths surrounding Veteran reintegration are not founded in facts.

The following statistics are useful when considering the scope and nature of the challenges Veterans face in their reintegration back to civilian society. While these statistics are not complete and can imply a lot, they also rebuke some of the myths surrounding Veterans.



Key Veteran Statistics

Veteran Population: The DVA Veteran Population Projection Model estimates there are more than 21.9 million living veterans in America today. While this number will decline over the next 20 years to 15.9 million living veterans, the number of post-9/11 veterans will double over the same time period from 2.1 million to 4.1 million.¹

Transition Rate: More than 200,000 Service Members are expected to transition from active duty service each year over the next five years.

Veteran Unemployment: As of Dec 2013, overall veteran unemployment is 5.5% as compared to a non-veteran unemployment rate of 6.4%.² The unemployment rate for veterans 18-24 years old is 15.6% as compared to 11.4% for non-veterans in the same age cohort.³ DOD paid \$211M in unemployment benefits in 1QFY13 alone.⁴

Veteran Employee Performance: Analysis of Corporate Executive Board survey data reveals that veteran employees perform at a level that is 4% higher than non-veterans and the turnover rates of veterans are approximately 3% lower than non-veterans.⁵ For a 1,000-employee company that averages \$150,000 in revenue per employee, this translates to a \$6 million yield due to veteran employee productivity and leads to savings of \$1.3 million annually due to lower veteran employee turnover.⁶

Mental Health: A review of studies focused on "US combat Veterans" (those that deployed in support of combat operations) and PTSD noted a prevalence range of 2-17%.⁷ In comparison, a study following Hurricane Katrina found that PTSD prevalence was 19% for police officers and 22% for firefighters involved in response efforts.⁸ Furthermore, over 26% of American adults are affected by some mental health disorder each year with anxiety disorders contributing some 18%.⁹

Education: In the 2011-2012 academic year, a Veteran student cohort of 741 students surveyed randomly from across 23 campuses averaged a 2.98 GPA, had a 90.5% success rate in earning the college credits that they pursued, and showed a "Persistence Rate" of 97%.¹⁰

Talking Points

- More than 200,000 service members will transition each year over the next five years.
- Veterans make highly-productive employees who turnover less frequently than their non-Veteran counterparts.
- Overall, Veteran unemployment rates are slightly below the national average, however the youngest veterans are unemployed at substantially higher rates than non-Veterans.
- Less than one-quarter of US combat Vets suffer from PTSD. 26% of all Americans are diagnosed each year with mental illness. Mental health issues are a societal challenge, not just a military problem.
- Recent surveys indicate that Veteran students are much more successful in attaining their degree than what has been reported in the media.

1. www.va.gov/vetdata/

3. www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cpseea40.htm

5. <http://img.en25.com/Web/CEB/CLC7538513SYN.pdf>

7. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20073563

9. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2847357/pdf/nihms176704.pdf

10. www.operationpromiseforservicemembers.com/Completing_Mission_II.pdf

2. www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t05.htm

4. Department of Labor Service invoices for 1st Quarter, FY13

6. www.executiveboard.com/blogs/the-undeniable-business-case-for-military-hiring

8. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23316739>



Warrior and Family Support

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